

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Minutes

March 24, 2016

Regular meeting of the Finance Committee was held on Thursday, March 24, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. in the Finance Committee Room, #112, Town Hall with the following members present: J. Denneen, R. Mariani, D. Bruce, J. McDermott, K. Guyette, P. Stasiukevicius M. Trudell, S. Lawson, T. Bowen. Absent were: J. Lowre, J. Burke, A. Healy, J. Vaillancourt, D. Crowley and P. Hinton. Also in attendance was Town Administrator J. Johnson, DPW Director R. O'Brien, Finance Director M. Thompson, Town Accountant J. Cuneo and Fire Chief T. Bailey

7:10 p.m. – Quorum being present, the meeting was called to order by the Chairman D. Bruce.

Appointments:

May 2, 2016 Spring Annual Town Meeting

Article 20 – Zoning By-law Amendment

Speaking to this article was Economic Development Director L. Dennehy, Planning Board Chairman J. Conroy. A Favorable Action vote will amend Zoning By-law Section 6-C. Special Conditions 4. Number of Buildings per Lot A. Residential. It will remove the existing loophole in the By-law allowing for multiple buildings on the lot, and, if approved, will now specify that projects that are subject to Site Plan Review are required to submit filing of same and that all other applicable requirements of the Zoning By-law are still in effect. It is an interpretation issue, and was a way to get around site plan. Planning Board sponsored this article and the hearing is scheduled for April 7, 2016.

MOTION MADE by S. Lawson, Seconded by J. Denneen for Favorable Action on Article 20, Motion Passed (9-0-0) (9 voting) Unanimous

Budgets/Building Inspector.

Town Administrator introduced to the Committee, the new Building Inspector David Norton. Also under discussion was a revised Inspectional Services Budget, Building Inspector's Salary has been increased by \$6,000, line item for the deputy building inspectors has been increased by \$18,293. Town Administrator spoke to looking into possibly hiring a retired state inspector for the department due to the number of anticipated projects. This budget does not include any funding for Siemens project during FY2017. They have a number of projects coming up and added staff will be

necessary and department might need additional full time inspectors in the future. Town Administrator is recommending this revised budget of \$405,921.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on the Inspectional Services Budget in the amount of \$405,921, Motion Passed (9-0-0) (9 voting) Unanimous

Budget Update

Town Administrator has spoken to the Legislators and the State Budget is going up. He had level funded the budget, and his recommendation is to go with Governor's Budget at this time. Tri-County Budget is down due to a drop in enrollment. He has spoken to Superintendent of Schools L. Lynch and he will recommend \$280,000 be allocated towards the School Budget and \$100,000 to the Debt Budget and putting extra money in the Reserve Fund for the hiring of additional fire fighters. Discussion ensued that the money for the proposed funding for the new firefighter positions be put in the Reserve Fund. This would allow for the money to be set aside in case the Town doesn't receive the Grant. If the Town receives the Grant, it is only good for two years. Grant is open nationwide. Also under discussion was the make up of the FinCom could change as of July 1 with new appointments by the Moderator, and new appointments could have different opinions.

Free Cash is higher this year due to receiving Federal money from snow and ice. He is also looking to recommend Veterans Benefits be increased by \$10,000 and additional monies for the Parks Overtime, Building Maintenance heating at Boyden School and increase to the Norfolk County High School Assessment. He will present the Committee his recommended budget adjustments.

Water & Sewer Budgets/Articles 5, 6, 7 and 8 W. Abbott, Chairman of Sewer and Water and R. Mattson, Superintendent of Sewer and Water.

Article 5 – Water Enterprise Fund

\$5,469,490 is being requested for the operation of the Water Department and two proposed water projects i.e. cast iron water mains and rehabilitations of the water booster pump stations. As these projects are going to be borrowed, they will require a 2/3 vote. Water rates are projected to increase 4%. The purchase of Jarvis Farm, increased the water rates last year that would have gone to improvements. They are looking at capital projects for the upcoming years. They have been able to keep the rates down due to not doing any capital projects. All the town's water mains are cast iron and the Town doesn't have a lead problem. The Committee expressed concerns with postponing infrastructure projects with attempting to keep the rates down. B. Abbott spoke to speaking to the other Commissioners about presenting a report under Article 2 on what the Commissioners project in the next five years. Town Administrator spoke to putting an

article in the Fall Town Meeting on any proposed projects. Commissions holds the rate hearing in early June, and take effect July 1.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on Article 5 in the amount of \$5,469,490 and funded by the following fund sources: \$175,000 Water Miscellaneous Receipts, \$269,341 MWPAT, Water Rates of \$5,025,149, Motion Passed (9-0-0) (9 voting) Unanimous

Article 7 – Water Main Replacements

\$1,730,000 for the replacement of 6,600 l.f. of 6 in unlined cast iron water mains within the distribution system. In addition there are two alternatives that would allow for the replacement of an additional 2300 l.f. of pipeline have been included in the bid specifications and would be included in the project should the pricing be favorable. These improvements would address water quality and flow issues in the Lincoln Road and Edgewood Avenue areas.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on Article 7 in the amount of \$1,730,000 by borrowing, Motion Passed (9-0-0) (9 voting) Unanimous

Article 8 – Water Booster Pump Stations Rehabilitation

\$297,000 being requested for the rehabilitation/replacement of the water booster pump station equipment and controls at the four distribution system water booster pump stations. Reliability and increased hydraulic and energy efficiency are anticipated benefits with these improvements. It is hoped that participation in an Energy Efficiency Program through Eversource may potentially assist with defraying the cost of the project. The Town has not received a firm commitment from Eversource. If they did have this, they wouldn't have to borrow the entire amount.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on Article 8 in the amount of \$297,000 from Borrowing, Motion Passed (9-0-0) (9 voting) Unanimous

Article 6 – Sewer Enterprise Fund

\$5,217,684 for the Sewer Department Operations and Maintenance Budget. This budget is very basic, and contains no frills, very lean. Included in this budget is the MWRA Assessment and Septage Facility Operations and Maintenance. Capital projects included are the rehabilitation of the Sewer Pump Stations on Eldor Drive, Morningside Drive, Eleanor Road, Ganawatte Drive, Leonard Road, Chandler Avenue and Walpole Park South.

It was explained that any new sewer construction is very expensive, a portion is covered by assessments (75%) and 25% sewer rate)

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for Favorable Action on Article 6 in the amount of \$5,217,684 funded by \$4,423,340 User Fees, \$515,500 Retained Earnings, \$58,844 MSPAT \$70,000 Septage and \$150,000 Miscellaneous Receipts, Motion Passed (9-0-0) 9 voting) Unanimous

DPW Director R. O'Brien re: Chip Seal project.

Mr. O'Brien spoke to his memo on Chipseal dated March 24, 2016. Stone chipseal method was last used in 2011. His recommendation would be to proceed with the bid process using the microseal project this paving season and review other options with the Town Administrator, Board of Selectmen, Capital Budget Committee and Finance Committee for next year's paving program. He has spoken with the Town of Foxboro, and there are a limited amount of vendors that do chipseal. Town has been using the microseal product and received very few complains. They have stopped using chipseal as it is very controversial. Chip seal is a policy decision to be done by the whole Town, it lasts longer and is a better product. It takes approximately 10 days to integrate into the roadway. Traffic helps push the stone into the oil. There is presently only one vendor that now does chipseal and prices could go up. Due to the number of complaints received on chipseal by the Selectmen, it was stopped.

Stormwater Management

Town Administrator is recommending an additional \$12,500 for stormwater management responsibilities that will follow under DPW Administration. This is a program to be approved by the Federal Government. Held

Article 9 – Prior Year's Bills

There are no prior year's bills pending at this time.

MOTION MADE by P. Stasiukevicius for No Action, Seconded by J. Denneen, Motion Passed (9-0-0) (9 voting) Unanimous

Article 10 – Snow and Ice Deficit.

Recommend vote for No Action. Administration doesn't anticipate a snow and ice deficit this year due to the mild winter. Balance in this line item is \$320,000, and funds have been taken out for stocking the salt shed.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for No Action, Motion Passed (9-0-0) (9 voting) Unanimous

Article 15 – Grant Acceptances

No Grants pending.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for No Action, Motion Passed (9-0-0) (9 voting) Unanimous

Town Clerk D. Sicard re: Voting Equipment

In a memo dated March 22, 2016, Town Clerk provided the committee details regarding new voter tabulator equipment and a timeline necessary for the purchase of new equipment. Committee to request the Town Clerk to meet with them on March 31, 2016.

Article 3 – FY2016 Budget Supplements

Recommend No Action due to there being no requests for budget supplements. Any shortfalls will be taken up through the Reserve Fund in June, 2016.

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson for No Action on Article 3, Motion Passed (9-0-0) (9 voting) Unanimous

Adjourn:

MOTION MADE by J. Denneen, Seconded by S. Lawson to adjourn the meeting at 9:00 p.m. Motion Passed (9-0-0) (9 voting) Unanimous

Respectfully submitted,

Clare P. Abril
Clerk